

Can't Wait to Tell!

Luke 1:26-56; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 81, 82; *The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 1128

Natasha had just learned to love and worship God. In some meetings that were held in her city, she learned that God had a special plan for her life. How happy she was! She couldn't wait to tell her family and friends about God's love! A long time ago another woman also wanted to share her love for God.

Wedding plans were being made for Mary, a young woman, and Joseph, her husband-to-be. Mary may have been thinking of how many date cakes she had to make before the wedding. Or how much grape juice would be needed for the feast.

We'll never know just what Mary was thinking or doing that day. We do know she suddenly saw an angel in the room with her. The Bible says it was Gabriel, the same angel who visited Zechariah (Luke 1:26). But Gabriel didn't tell Mary his name. The angel went to her and said, "Congratulations, favored lady! The Lord is with you!" (Luke 1:28, TLB).

Mary was troubled and confused. She

wondered what the angel was talking about.

"Don't be frightened, Mary," he said. "God is pleased with you! Very soon you will become pregnant. You will have a baby boy, and you are to name the baby Jesus." (See Luke 1:30-32.) And then Gabriel told Mary about her cousin

Elizabeth, who was also expecting a miracle baby. Elizabeth's baby was to be born in just three months.

Before the angel disappeared, Mary spoke, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever He wants. May everything you said come true" (Luke 1:38, TLB).

After Gabriel left, Mary must have sat down to think about this news. It was probably hard to believe she had actually spoken with an angel! And it was hard to believe that her cousin Elizabeth was pregnant! Elizabeth was so old!

Mary decided to visit Elizabeth. She wanted to talk to her about the angel's visit. Perhaps Elizabeth would understand how frightening and yet exciting it was. So Mary



The Message

*I worship God when I tell others
about my love for Him.*

Memory Verse

*"My soul glorifies the
Lord and my spirit
rejoices in God my
Savior"*

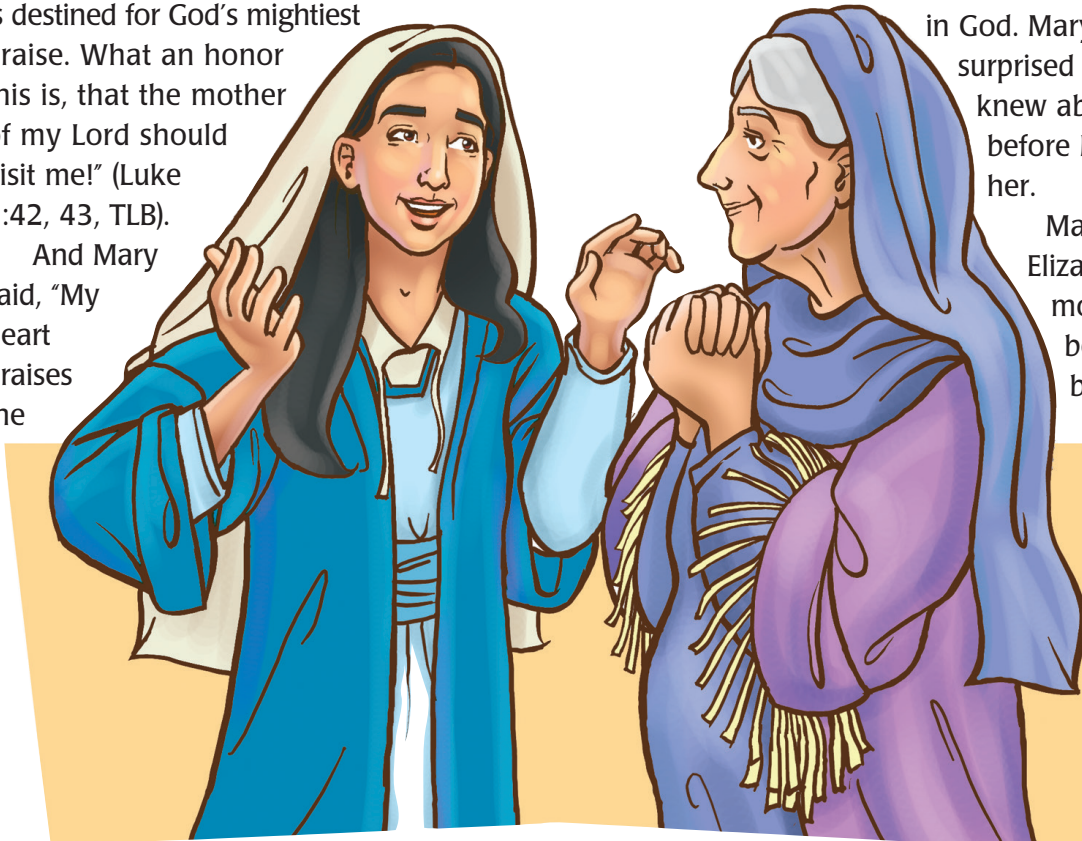
(Luke 1:46, 47, NIV).

gathered a few things together and went to see Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was large and round with the growing baby. As soon as she heard Mary's voice, her baby kicked and squirmed inside her. Elizabeth welcomed her cousin, giving Mary a huge hug. "The baby inside me just jumped for joy!" she said happily.

Then she said to Mary, "You are favored by God above all other women, and your child is destined for God's mightiest praise. What an honor this is, that the mother of my Lord should visit me!" (Luke 1:42, 43, TLB).

And Mary said, "My heart praises the



Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant!

"From now on all people will call me happy, because of the great things the Mighty God has

done for me" (Luke 1:46-49, TEV).

The two women sat down together. They shared with each other their trust in God. Mary must have been surprised because Elizabeth knew about Mary's baby before Mary could tell her.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months. She left just before Elizabeth's baby, John, was born. Mary must have believed that her own baby was a very special baby too. And these were special times for her and Joseph.

Elizabeth's trust in God made Mary's faith even stronger. That's how it is with telling others that you trust God and love Him. Both you and the other people love God even more. Worshipping God aloud helps everyone.



SUNDAY

READ Read and discuss Luke 1:26-38 during family worship.

SING Sing "Praise Him" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 15).

DO Draw a pair of lips to represent the way we praise God with our voices. Copy the memory verse onto the lips and put it where you will see it every day. Ask God to help you speak only words of praise.

TUESDAY

READ For family worship, read and discuss Luke 1:46-55. Say Mary's song in your own words. Draw a picture about the song. Make your memory verse into a praise song to Jesus. Sing it with rhythm instruments.

DO Today would be a good day to give away the angel bookmark that you made in Sabbath School. (If you were not in Sabbath School, make a bookmark in the shape of an angel and write on the back a message about your love for Jesus.)

SABBATH

DO With your family, look for something that you really like in God's outdoors: a beautiful flower, leaf, waterfall, bird, etc. (If the weather is bad, look in nature books.) Have a "praise God" time. Tell or show each other what you found, and why you like it. Then, sing praise songs together. Thank God for beauty in nature.

READ Read your Bible lesson story together. Close family worship by reading Luke 1:46, 47.

MONDAY

READ With your family, read and discuss Luke 1:39-45. Baby John jumped for joy before he was born. Why?

DO Other creatures that God has made also jump. Name some. Learn two new things about one. Jump like it. Draw a picture, or make it from clay.

DO Say your memory verse without help.

SING Sing "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 18) before prayer.

WEDNESDAY

SHARE During worship, read and discuss Luke 1:24, 26. How long had John been growing inside his mother when Mary was visited by the angel? _____ months. Read Luke 1:56. How long did Mary stay with Elizabeth? _____ months. Count that many months on a calendar. What will you be doing then?

DO Sing your memory verse. Then say it in your own words. Thank God for babies.

T H U R S D A Y

DO With your family, read Luke 1:26 and 1:39 again. Look at a Bible map together. Circle the country and town where the angel visited Mary. Find the place where Elizabeth lived. Use the map scale and determine how far Mary traveled to see Elizabeth. Mary made this trip all alone to share the good news about Jesus. Where will you go to tell others about Him? Is your memory verse a good way to tell others about Jesus?

PRAY Pray for people who travel to tell others about Jesus.

F R I D A Y

DO For family worship, prepare a broadcast about Mary's good news. Use a tape recorder or video camera, if available. Report on the Bible story as it happens. Ask a member of your family to be an "eyewitness." Have them tell what they saw as the story unfolded. Then have someone be a commentator and tell what the story means to them. Then watch or listen to the recording.*

DO Mary told others about her love for God. Have you done the same? Read together Psalm 34:3. Then sing your memory verse.

*Adapted from Lisa Flin and Barbara Younger, *Making Scripture Stick* (Loveland, Colo.: Group Books, 1992), pp. 94, 95.

Can't Wait to Tell!

PUZZLE

Directions: Untangle the following sets of letters to learn the names of the two mothers-to-be and their husbands. Hint: Circle every other letter to get one name in each set of letters. Write both names on the lines provided.

J M O A S R E Y P H

E Z L E I C Z H A A B R E I T A H H
